



News Release

Office of Public Relations
3600 South Constitution Boulevard
West Valley City, Utah 84119-3720
Office: (801) 963-3466
Fax: (801) 955-3604
Email: aaron.crim@wvc-ut.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 17, 2010

Contact: Aaron Crim, Director of Public Relations & Neighborhood Services, (801) 963-3466, media use only
Mike Winder, Mayor, (801) 633-1300

WVC Council Places Open Space Initiative on the Ballot

West Valley City – The West Valley City Council voted unanimously tonight to place a \$25 million General Obligation bond on the November ballot. If approved by voters, it would raise taxes about \$25.02 on an average residential home (valued at \$177,000) for twenty years. The bond would build out the City's trail system, build a new Granger Park green space in the West Valley City Center, and provide money for additional park properties throughout the City.

"We are in tight economic times, but we are going to pull up our bootstraps and do something about it; by improving property values, jumpstarting economic development, living healthier and creating jobs," said Mayor Mike Winder.

The new Granger Park green space is viewed as a critical element in the City Center redevelopment as it represents a major public investment in the area intended to spur economic development, provide needed open space in that area of the City by replacing the old Granger Park, and will become a gathering place and regional amenity for the entire city. The greenway would include water features, picnic areas, and potentially playgrounds and a skate park.

Another key piece of the bond will build out the City's trail system (additional 27.5 miles and acquisition of about nine acres). This includes the Cross Towne Trail completion, the Utah and Salt Lake Canal trail, two north/south trails including one paralleling the Mountain View Corridor. The City is looking to capitalize on the assets of the Jordan River, several canals and power corridors, Decker Lake, a new trans-valley connection to the Parley's Trail, and a number of business parks in the City to create a network of trails that will be second to none in the state. Additional park spaces throughout the City will also be completed as a result of the bond.

"West Valley City is a great place to live," said Councilman Corey Rushton, "and we are calling on our community to reinvest in our city to make it even better."

Why and Why Now?

- Construction costs are very reasonable right now, and interest rates are at historic lows, so there is no better time to reinvest in our city.
- Increase property values by improving quality of neighborhoods (studies show homes near trails increase in value 4% to 10%).
- Demonstrate our city's commitment to improving air quality by facilitating trails for bicyclists.
- Assist economic development by providing public investment of green space and recreation to help jumpstart the City Center redevelopment.
- Cut health care costs for residents and reduce obesity by providing more opportunities to get out and exercise.
- Create jobs by factoring in number of West Valley City residents on payroll by a company bidding on projects.
- Improve quality of life for residents with recreation amenities closer to home.
- Add value to business parks, like Lake Park and Decker Lake, by connecting their trail systems to the larger community.

###